



DIRECTORATE OF
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South Vietnam: Today's Vietnam moratorium in the US and the continued antiwar statements by American politicians have aggravated the fears of many politically aware Vietnamese over basic US intentions in Vietnam.

The Saigon press has voiced apprehension that Washington will be unable to resist domestic pressures for a rapid US withdrawal. One newspaper published by the influential oppositionist Senator Tran Van Don recently commented that President Nixon was being roundly criticized by members of his own party for the first time since he took office, and that American impatience to end the war might be reaching a crescendo.

A militant Catholic journal recently stated that it was very possible the US delegation in Paris might soon make further concessions to the Communists at South Vietnam's expense in order to get the negotiations off dead center.

President Thieu, sensitive to these fears, assured foreign and domestic newsmen yesterday that the antiwar protesters in the US represent a minority and not the majority of American public opinion.

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The ground war in South Vietnam remains at a lull. Saigon police uncovered Viet Cong pamphlets calling for peace demonstrations in the capital today, but it appears unlikely that agitators will be able to stir up any significant activity.

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Laos: [The military situation in northern Laos remains generally static, but in southern Laos enemy attacks have erased some government gains.]

[Government elements in the north are making some minor advances in their Xieng Khouang Province offensive, and are continuing to consolidate high ground positions northwest and northeast of the Plaine des Jarres. Communist forces appear to be sticking essentially to defensive tactics, although there has been some increase in enemy patrolling and raiding actions.]

[redacted] a subordinate battalion of North Vietnam's 312th Division, [redacted] abrupt move into Laos in mid-September was touched off by Vang Pao's sweeping successes in Xieng Khouang Province. The unit initially was scheduled to enter Laos in June, but was pulled back from the Laos border and returned to its base north of Hanoi, possibly because of the Communists' recapture of Xieng Khouangville.]

[Government offensives in southern Laos are being checked by heavy enemy counterattacks. Government units have been forced to abandon the town of Toumlane and withdraw to the south, and several irregular companies have been driven from the high ground overlooking Route 9, just southwest of Tchepone. Reinforced government elements have begun moving from the northwest toward Muong Phine in an effort to regain the initiative there.]

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[On the political scene in Vientiane, the Canadians have decided, primarily for budgetary reasons, to close out their mission assigned to the International Control Commission. Although the commission

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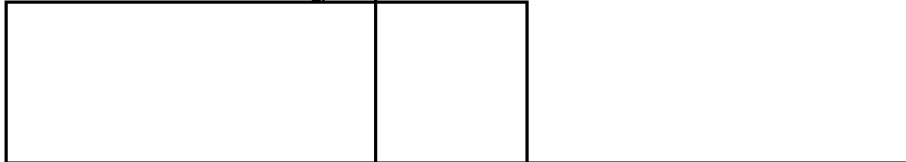
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has been largely ineffective in fulfilling its responsibilities under the 1962 Geneva Accords, it has been of some service to the Lao Government in documenting Communist violations of the accords. It also may have exerted some restraining influence on Communist aggression in Laos.

(Map)

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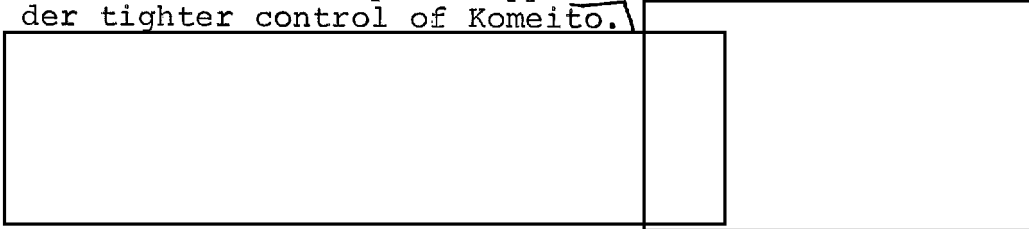
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Okinawa: Komeikai, the local arm of Japan's activist Komeito party, is about to campaign more aggressively against US bases on Okinawa.

Komeikai is readying a report intended to focus popular dissatisfaction on hazards to public welfare created by US bases on Okinawa. The survey, according to Komeito officials, will demand a sizable reduction in the number of US installations in line with Komeito's policy calling for gradual dissolution of the US-Japan mutual security treaty.

Komeito officials have requested help from the US Embassy in Tokyo in arranging a visit by a party mission to Okinawa ostensibly to persuade the Komeikai to modify some "rather provocative and questionable" sections of the report. Komeito scored a major propaganda coup last year with a detailed study of the US base structure in Japan. Rather than toning down the Komeikai report, Komeito is more likely to want it to achieve a similar splash. The Komeito study received extensive media coverage, prompting considerable criticism of the Sato government for failing to take the initiative in representing the people's interests.

The Komeikai, currently a semi-autonomous affiliate of the Japan-based Komeito, reportedly will become a chapter of Komeito later this month. In the past Komeikai has tended to be more conservative than its parent organization, particularly on the base issue since many of its members are employed on US bases. It now may be under greater pressure to voice more outspoken opposition as it comes under tighter control of Komeito.



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Korea: Pyongyang has inadvertently aided South Korea's referendum campaign in the last few days with blundering attempts at agent infiltration.

Yesterday South Korean Navy and Air Force units intercepted and sank a 75-ton agent boat off the southwest coast. This is the same general area where two similarly unsuccessful sea infiltration attempts occurred last month. Within the past few days, moreover, South Korean troops twice encountered enemy agents within the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), killing six.

President Pak's supporters have exploited these incidents to paint an exaggerated picture of an increased threat from the north and to extol the administration's ability to defend the nation. To document the regime's case further, security agencies have released details of five agent arrests or sightings in areas more remote from the DMZ within the past two weeks.

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Another part of the government's highly organized campaign has been directed toward piling up enough votes in rural areas to offset the negative vote expected in Seoul and other urban centers. All indications are that President Pak's third term aspirations will be supported by a comfortable majority of the population in the vote on Friday.

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(Map)

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UN - Communist China: [Some uncertainty has developed regarding the outcome of this year's debate on the Chinese representation question, but the seating of Peking still remains unlikely.]

[The more fluid situation has resulted from a number of developments, including the Canadian and Italian moves toward Chinese recognition and some doubts concerning the future course of US-Peking relations. Heretofore, Canada has supported the procedural resolution that requires a two-thirds vote to change national representation and has abstained since 1966 on the traditional Albanian resolution calling for the ouster of Taiwan and the seating of Peking. Italy has voted against the Albanian resolution. However, in the event of sudden progress in their recognition talks, both governments might feel impelled to support Peking at the UN.]

[Among the Latin Americans, Chile is restive on the Chinese representation question, and Colombia has given notice that its pro-Taiwan voting pattern may cease. Further erosion of Taiwan's support among the Latin Americans could narrow the margin as the voting approaches in early November.]

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Panama: The determination of the provisional junta government to maintain tight political control indefinitely has been confirmed by the minister of the presidency. He has told US Embassy officials that the political parties would definitely not be allowed to participate in the selection of delegates to a constituent assembly to be called late in 1970. Instead, the government intends to have about 25 organizations representing business, labor, peasants, and other sectors select the delegates. The assembly is to be dissolved after it amends the constitution, and will not be used to elect a provisional president or be converted into a legislative national assembly.

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Turkey: The makeup of the new parliament signifies that no change will take place in the country's domestic and foreign policies. In the elections on 12 October, Prime Minister Demirel's Justice Party won 256 of the 450 seats, a gain of one deputy. The major opposition party, the left-of-center Republican People's Party (RPP), increased its representation by 22 seats to 142. The far-left, anti-US Turkish Labor Party elected only two candidates, a drop of 12. Because ten seats are required to form a parliamentary party delegation, the only minor party that will be represented is the Reliance Party, an offshoot of the RPP. Independents, mostly conservative, made a good showing, winning 13 seats.



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